



Montana Economic Developers Association

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**TO: JOINT APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT
AND TRANSPORTATION**
Rep. Janna Taylor, Chair

RE: Governor's Office of Economic Development


The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) represents over 200 professionals who work for local economic development organizations across the State of Montana. We are professional "lead" economic developers, business specialists, government employees, and staff members of affiliated non-profit organizations which promote and foster economic development activities in Montana.

While our membership works with a wide variety of economic development programs, the Governor's Office of Economic Development is the conduit for comprehensive economic development efforts in the state. The Governor's Office of Economic Development coordinates with state departments, local and regional development organizations, local governments as well as the private sector to bring vital economic change to Montana.

Bearing in mind the critical role of the Governor's Office of Economic Development in the state, MEDA strongly encourages your support of a minimal funding increase to enhance the marketing and recruitment budget of this office. The original business recruitment and marketing allocation in 1999 was \$700,000 for the biennium. As current funding is \$600,000 for the biennium, the requested increase to \$500,000 per year is more than justified. An increase in funding will allow the Governor's Office of Economic Development to work more aggressively and become even more proactive with their partners across the state.

MEDA strongly requests your support of the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Working in partnership with others involved in economic development efforts, we can continue to work together to accelerate marketing and recruitment efforts for Montana.

Sincerely,


Rick Edwards, President

Cc: MEDA Board of Directors

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